

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4901

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH LABOR PARTY AID TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 5988 (B) THE HAGUE 5580 (NOTAL)

(C) THE HAGUE A-209

1. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH DCM ON DEC 18, STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE STEMERDINK EMPHASIZED THAT DUTCH LABOR PARTY (OF WHICH HE IS ONE OF THE ACKNOWLEDGED AND INFLUENTIAL LEADERS AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION) WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. THIS WOULD BE DONE BY APPEALS AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS TO ALL DUTCH LABOR PARTY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL, AS TITULAR HEAD OF THE LABOR PARTY, WOULD LEAD THE CAMPAIGN IF THIS COULD BE SQUARED WITH HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT COMPRISING FOUR OTHER PARTIES, TWO OF WHICH ARE DEFINITELY NOT SOCIALIST.

2. ALTHOUGH THE FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN WILL OSTENSIBLY BE VOLUNTARY, STEMERDINK GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ALL

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GOOD DUTCH SOCIALISTS WILL BE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED, NOT

TO SAY MORE, TO CONTRIBUTE. HE MENTIONED CASUALLY FOR INSTANCE THAT ALL SOCIALIST MINISTERS AND STATE SECRETARIES IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DONATE AT LEAST 1,000 GULDERS (APPROXIMATELY \$400). WHEN THE DCM INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AID AND ALLUDED TO INTERNAL BUREAUCRATIC DIFFERENCES IN LOCATING A SOURCE FOR SUCH AID (REF STEMERDINK REPLIED SOMEWHAT VAGUELY TO THE EFFECT THAT THEIR SHOULD ALSO BE GON AID BUT THAT THE MAIN THING AT THE MOMENT WAS THE FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN OF THE LABOR PARTY.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS INTERESTING THAT STEMERDINK TALKED OF HIS PARTY'S FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN IN TERMS OF AN EFFORT TO SAVE AND FORTIFY THE POSITION OF SOARES VIS-A-VIS THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS. STEMERDINK HELD OUT NO HOPE THAT ANY OF THE CENTER OR RIGHT WING PORTUGUESE PARTIES COULD COMPETE WITH THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS WITH ANY REALISTIC HOPE OF SUCCESS. ONLY SOARES AND HIS SOCIALISTS WERE CAPABLE OF DOING SO IN STEMERDINK'S VIEW. GIVEN STEMERDINK'S KEY POSITION IN THE LEFT WING OF THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY IT IS A REASONABLE INFERENCE THAT THE DUTCH SOCIALISTS HAVE HITCHED THEIR WAGON TO SOARES' STAR AND SEE HIM AS THE ONLY HOPE OF SALVATION FOR THE FLEDGLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC REGIME.  
GOULD

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## Message Attributes

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